

NOTES ON EDUCATION.

The University of Berlin has 3,608 matriculated students.

There is in Indiana a school revenue of \$907,279 \$3 ready for apportionment.

Iowa State University has 516 students.

The State Normal School has 188.

In some of the counties in Colorado the pupils in the public schools are obliged to go from two to six miles to school.

The California teachers have requested the State Superintendent to take steps to have a chair of pedagogics established at the State University.

The public school for colored children in Dubuque was discontinued in 1877, and colored pupils are now admitted to the other schools.

There is just now much discussion over the teaching of German in the public schools of Cleveland, divers citizens being disposed to imitate the example of Chicago and discard the study.

The teachers in the primary departments of the nine Leadville schools receive \$50 per month, and those in the intermediate departments get \$70. The schools are excellent in work and spirit.

It is stated that since 1870 Mississippi has spent upon Alcorn University and the two colored normal schools the sum of \$290,700. This is exclusive of the expenditures for the colored public schools.

A committee of Wisconsin teachers recommend that no State certificate be granted to any person except upon examination, and that not until after he has successfully taught for at least five years.

In Michigan University 219 students are taking Greek. Among the English studies history is very popular; it is taken by 471 students, while only 192 have taken mathematics during the second semester.

The Massachusetts State Board of Education has lately been investigating the matter of District Superintendent, and all the answers to inquiries addressed to other States have shown the satisfactory result of such supervision.

Superintendent Stone, of Springfield, Mass., has obtained good results from written tests demanded by the State or otherwise for the support of superannuated teachers, or those who have been broken down by earnest and faithful work in the school room."

The reported school population of Kansas is \$11,310; the enrollment in the public schools during the past year was 208,409, and the total attendance was 123,996. There were 6,077 teachers employed. The school revenues amounted to \$1,875,563.02, and the expenditures to \$1,590,794.30.

One speaker at the recent meeting of the Maine Teachers' Association said wisely that the discipline of each pupil should be a matter of personal study by the teacher, and that the motives for violation of school law should be ascertained, that justice as exact as possible might be administered. Another speaker advocated the system of putting pupils on their honor for good behavior.

The San Francisco School Board has reduced the salaries of the primary teachers, and much indignation is expressed by taxpayers, by teachers and by the press. The Republican County Committee took up the matter, and adopted for transmission to the School Board resolutions pointing out how the expenses of the department might be reduced without taking off the hard earnings of the primary teachers.

President Eliot last week addressed the Massachusetts Teachers' Association in advocacy of a long term of office by teachers, this long tenure implying intelligent selection with strict examinations and a probationary service. He also asked for a retirement of teachers on pensions or annuities, with absolute security against a reduction of salaries, thus freeing the teachers from anxiety, and leaving them to devote all their powers to their work. The Association unanimously approved the formation of a National Council of Education.

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At the meeting last week of the Michigan Teachers' Association one of the school superintendents declared that of late there has been a falling off in the number of boys graduating from the high schools of the State, the average being about five girls to one boy, showing that the women are becoming better educated than the men. He regretted that so many boys were leaving school without any good excuse of poverty or necessity of work; it was simply their own inherent laziness. Another speaker advocated a law providing that pupils, when prepared, should be sent from the district schools to a graded school. This could be done, said he, by the districts uniting and locating a grammar school in some township, and by dividing the expense providing a place for advanced pupils. Professor George of the State Normal School said that the great trouble with the rural schools was the tendency of the part of township school boards to engage incompetent teachers, those boards having the peculiar idea that as soon as little children attend the schools any teacher who could keep them together was good enough for the purpose. Professor Hennepin, of Michigan University, read a paper during the meeting advocating among other things, the compulsory teaching of French and German in the schools, observing that America is being peopled by Germans and French who are crossing the ocean in thousands every year. It is doubtful if Americans will soon consent to make foreign languages obligatory in schools where there is still so much to be done in improving the methods of English teaching. A thorough English education is the thing needed first in an English-speaking country.

One of the Indiana teachers, at the meeting of their association last week, took up a subject which is not sufficiently discussed by teachers—“Thoroughness in School Work.” He declared that school work can and should be made so attractive that pupils will be won to it as a pleasure, and their enthusiasm aroused. Study, he added with good sense, should never be imposed as a punishment, nor should a holiday be offered as a premium for application—either of these courses being an acknowledgment that the work of life is a burdensome task when it is honorable to shirk on a burdensome opportunity. He thought that the mistake in punishing children to make them work is in supposing that present study is the main thing to be secured; whereas it really is good habits and the right attitude toward life's work. He insisted upon a clear and adequate knowledge of a thing being attained before a pupil passes to another study, and a clear and adequate expression of that knowledge. In the discussion which followed the reading of this paper, one speaker deplored as one cause of the lack of thoroughness in schools, the absurdly full course of study. Another cause is the poor salary of the teacher, who gets no remuneration in proportion to the preparation necessary for thoroughness. Other causes mentioned were a lack of special preparation on the part of the teacher for each day's work, irregularity of pupils, indifference of parents in regard to school matters, the too prevalent idea that education costs but little, either of time or labor, and the hurryng of pupils through school, graduating them at the age of fifteen or sixteen.

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